

A new chapter for the Liberty

It's not too often that members of the community feel such a connection and allegiance to a small business that when they sense something is amiss, they call, e-mail, and stop by their local newspaper to find out what's going on.

But that is exactly what happened last week when downtown Camas's own Liberty Theater seemed to abruptly close on Sept. 7. With the familiar marquee completely blank, and "Now Playing" posters removed, immediately, questions and calls began coming in.

In the end, the reasons behind the closure were not all that dramatic. Greg Wood, Liberty's operator since 1996, decided to focus on his family and concentrate his work efforts into a business he owns in Portland.

The closure of the Liberty Theater will have a significant impact on not only the downtown core, but members of the Camas-Washougal community as well. During peak times, the theater could draw as many as 3,000 people per week to downtown. In addition, it provided one of the few family entertainment venues in the local C-W area. These losses will be felt.

It appears, however, that plans are already in the works for the building, and keeping the facility's historical integrity is a priority.

Clearly, this business is important to the Camas community on many levels. Hopefully, even in this down economy, a new operator will be able to come in and once again open this well loved facility to the community.

— Heather Acheson